

# CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Winter 2012 Volume 9 Number 2

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Convention Center awards  
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Pet waste and water quality  
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## State of the City Address

Jan. 30, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall

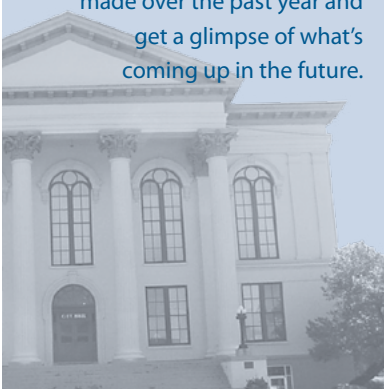
102 N. 3rd St.

Live on the web and GTV:

[wilmingtonnc.gov](http://wilmingtonnc.gov)

TimeWarner Cable Ch. 8

Tune in to learn more about  
improvements the city has  
made over the past year and  
get a glimpse of what's  
coming up in the future.



## Check the back

Want to find out how to help  
the environment by receiving  
this newsletter by email?

Want to learn more about the  
city on Facebook or Twitter?

Check out the back panel of  
this newsletter to find out more.

## City getting geared up for property revaluation changes

Development of the 2012-13 budget is now getting underway. This year's budget will be impacted by the 2012 property revaluation conducted by New Hanover County.

Revaluations are done every few years using a uniform method of assessment. This helps provide equity among property owners by reflecting current values in different neighborhoods so that property taxes can be applied fairly. The last revaluation in New Hanover County was done in 2007. The new property values went into effect on Jan. 1, 2012.

In New Hanover County, many properties decreased in value since the last revaluation. A few may have gone up and others stayed the same.

Any affect changing property values have on the city tax rate has not yet been determined. With the anticipated decrease in the county's overall property tax base, it is possible that the city tax rate may be increased to bring in the same amount of money as it did before revaluation. This is called a "revenue neutral" rate.

However, revaluation does not mean local government gets more tax money or that taxes automatically go up – the tax rate will



be set during the development of the 2012-13 budget that will be finalized late this spring.

The city is still gathering data and expects to have the information it needs to determine the impact of the revaluation on city government in the next several weeks. After that, a recommended budget will be developed and presented to City Council in May, 2012 with adoption by June 30, 2012.

It is important to the city that residents understand the revaluation process and what it means to them. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

## City Police Department receives national accreditation

The Wilmington Police Department recently received Advanced Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). This achievement is the highest recognition a law enforcement agency can receive in the United States. Over the last three years, the department underwent an in-depth review of their operations to attain the accreditation. The WPD is the first agency in this region to achieve this recognition.

All aspects of the WPD's policies, procedures, management, operations and support service were scrutinized in great detail. The department was reviewed twice by outside assessment teams, and the local community was given an opportunity to submit comments and observations during the final on-site assessment.



## Convention Center wins national awards

The Wilmington Convention Center recently received three national awards – two for being environmentally-friendly and one from top meeting planners as a preferred meeting site in the southern US.

The Convention Center received LEED Silver Certification from the US Green Building Council, an Engineering Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of NC and the Readers' Choice Award as a preferred convention center meeting site from the national trade publication ConventionSouth.

To be LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certified, facilities are rated on a point system to verify efforts to conserve energy and water, reduce waste and enhance indoor air quality. The center has several green features that will help the environment and save money.

The State Engineering Excellence Award recognizes the overall design of the site, which is specially designed to protect the riverfront ecosystem and minimize the environmental impact while also rehabilitating a former industrial site.

The center was also selected by top meeting planners throughout the southern US as a preferred meeting site. ConventionSouth, a trade magazine of more than 18,000 meeting planners, chose the Convention Center for a Readers' Choice Southern US Award. Facilities chosen for this award are showcased in the magazine and are more likely to be considered by meeting planners to book conventions.



## Parking rate changes make fees more fair, consistent

Several changes to city parking rates went into effect in January, 2012. Most of the changes involve city parking decks to make fees more consistent and equitable. Following are highlights:

- Fees are now collected in city decks 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Drivers can use a credit card to make payments when parking attendants are not on duty. This closes a loophole that had allowed for free parking in city decks when the decks were not manned more than 80 hours each week. Pay-in-lane stations are being installed in the decks early this year.
- Deck fee \$5 Thurs–Sat after 9 p.m. Pay upon entry
- Festival/event deck flat fee: \$7
- Deck daily maximum/lost ticket fee: \$8
- First 60 minutes in city decks: Free
- Parking in 00-300 blocks of N. Front Street: 2 hrs (previously 1 hr)
- Parking ticket fines: \$20
- On-street parking meter fees: NO changes

 [wilmingtonnc.gov/parking](http://wilmingtonnc.gov/parking)

## City wants input on collector street plan

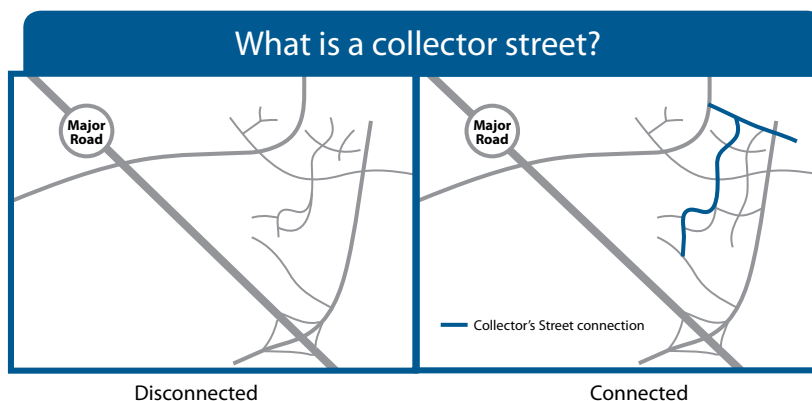
Collector streets connect local streets with major roads to reduce congestion. Good design standards can also improve property values, aesthetics and pedestrian/bicycle access. The city is working with the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) on a long-range plan for streets that may impact many residential and commercial areas of Wilmington in the future. Numerous streets have already been identified as potential collector streets. Before the plan is finalized, the city invites citizens to provide input and get involved by attending the workshop below or taking an online survey.

### How can I provide input?

- Attend public input workshop: February 6th, 2012, 5–7 p.m. HR Training Room, New Hanover County Government Center 230 Government Center Dr., Wilmington
- Take the survey online: <http://tinyurl.com/WCSP-Survey>
- Call the WMPO: 910-341-4661
- Send an email: [Tara.Murphy@wilmingtonnc.gov](mailto:Tara.Murphy@wilmingtonnc.gov)

### Where can I find a draft of the plan and will it affect me?

- Project website: <http://www.wilmingtonncsp.com/>
- WMPO website: <http://www.wmpo.org>





## City recognized for "green" efforts

This fall, the City of Wilmington was one of two North Carolina cities to receive a major state award for its efforts to conserve energy and natural resources. Over the last few years, the city has undertaken several initiatives to conserve energy and be more environmentally friendly. Here are a few highlights.

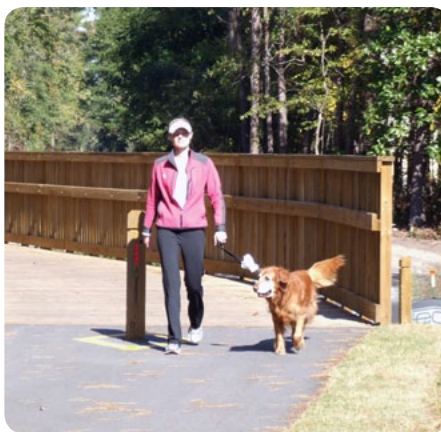


### SAVING MONEY, HELPING ENVIRONMENT

- Improved fuel efficiency, utilized hybrid vehicles as feasible, and "right sized" the city's fleet of more than 400 vehicles.
- Changed pick up routes for city's trash customers in 2010 to be more efficient and save money.
- Secured federal grants to fund retrofits for energy efficiency, water efficiency, and solar energy measures throughout city facilities.
- Designed and constructed the new Convention Center with "green" building features such as a white roof that reflects the sun and reduces heat gain, as well as water saving devices.
- Retrofitted the old streetsweeper facility on 17th Street with energy saving features, including solar panels that are used to power the building. Any additional energy created by the panels not needed to power the building is fed back onto the power grid.
- Named as one of eight North Carolina cities designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. This award is presented only to communities that have shown a significant commitment to bicycling.
- Completed approximately 11 miles of the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail so far. When complete, the trail will be approximately 15 miles long and run from Wade Park to the Wrightsville Beach Drawbridge.

The Susan M. Burgess Sustainability Award by the N.C. League of Municipalities (NCLM) is presented annually to honor cities that have taken the initiative to conserve energy and natural resources at the local government level.

## Cross City Trail continues progress



Yet another phase of construction on the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail is now underway. Having recently completed phase 3, which stretches from South College road through UNCW and to the College Acres neighborhood, crews are now working on a bridge which will connect College Acres to the Autumn Hall Development on Eastwood Road.

The recently completed section features a multi-use path through the UNCW campus and sidewalks and bike lanes on Mallard Drive, Rill Road and Teal Street. The city received \$2 million in federal stimulus funding for this section of the trail. Almost 11 miles of the trail are already complete. When fully complete, the trail will be approximately 15 miles long and stretch from Wade Park in the southern side of the city to the Wrightsville Beach drawbridge.



## The city reminds you to Take 2!

Pet waste is a serious water quality and public health issue. In an urban setting such as Wilmington, stormwater runoff quickly washes bacteria from pet waste directly into area waterways. The city's pet waste ordinance is designed to help protect waterways by requiring that citizens be responsible for cleaning up after their pets. Currently, the #1 cause of pollution in area waterways is animal waste.

The city ordinance also requires pet caretakers to carry a bag or scooper at all times and be able to show it to a city code enforcement officer upon request. Pet waste stations, which the city has installed in some locations, are not considered to be a method of clean-up. Pet caretakers can still be fined \$250 if they cannot produce a method of cleaning up after their pet, even if they are on their way to a pet waste station.

The city advises all pet caretakers to "Take 2!" The first bag would be used to clean up the pet waste and the second bag would be used as back-up to show to a code enforcement officer, if asked.





City of Wilmington  
P.O. Box 1810  
102 N. Third Street  
Wilmington, NC 28402

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Wilmington City Council

Mayor and City Council .....341-7815  
Bill Saffo, Mayor  
Earl Sheridan, Ph.D., Mayor Pro-Tem  
Neil Anderson  
Margaret E. Haynes  
Kevin O'Grady  
Laura W. Padgett  
Charles H. Rivenbark, Jr.

City Info Line .....341-7800

City Manager .....341-7810  
Sterling Cheatham

Editor .....341-0061  
Malissa Talbert

Contributing Staff: Becky Blue, Chris Compton,  
Jennifer Isbell, Dylan Lee, Kazu Takeda

The Public Information Report is published by  
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Contact us at 910-341-0833, send an email to  
[newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov](mailto:newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov) or mail us:  
Communications Office, P.O. Box 1810,  
Wilmington, NC 28402-1810

General Information Phone Numbers

Citizen Services Information .....341-7800  
Emergency.....911  
Police/Non-Emergency .....343-3600  
To find the police district assigned to your neighborhood,  
see [wilmingtonnc.gov/police](http://wilmingtonnc.gov/police)  
Fire/Non-Emergency.....341-7846  
Parks and Recreation .....341-7855  
Parks Hotline .....341-7852  
Street Maintenance.....341-7879  
Parking.....762-5678  
Zoning.....254-0900  
Trash pickup/Recycling.....341-7875  
Stormwater .....341-4646  
Cape Fear Public Utility Authority .....332-6550  
Code Enforcement .....341-3266

Look for the  for information

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newsletter by email?

In an effort to save money and trees, citizens  
can sign up to receive this newsletter by email  
instead of direct mail. If you are interested,  
please email the city with your name and  
regular mailing address to:

[newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov](mailto:newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov)

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are generally held on  
the first and third Tuesday of the month at  
6:30 p.m. at City Hall. For more information,  
see the city's web site at: [wilmingtonnc.gov](http://wilmingtonnc.gov)

City Council Meetings on GTV8

Council meetings are broadcast live on GTV8, the  
city channel on Timewarner Cable. Council meet-  
ings are replayed:

- ~ Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, the week of  
the Council meeting at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- ~ Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, the week after  
the Council meeting at 11:30 p.m.

This Week From City Hall

Catch a summary of city events and activities on  
GTV8's "This Week From City Hall," airing twice  
daily at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. New episodes are  
available on the 1st and 15th of each month.

GTV8 online

All GTV8 programming can be found on the city's  
website, live or on-demand. From the front page,  
simply click on "online videos." Then, select the  
program you want to watch.



The city on the web  
[wilmingtonnc.gov](http://wilmingtonnc.gov)



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You can also follow the Wilmington Police  
and Fire Departments on Twitter:  
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[www.twitter.com/WilmingtonFD](http://www.twitter.com/WilmingtonFD)